Decline in Water Table

655. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water table has been falling rapidly in several States in India;

(b) whether in some areas of Tamil Nadu, the water table has gone down by as much as 30 metres or so during the last ten years;

(c) whether the recent steep fall in the ground water level even in urban areas like Delhi, is causing grave hardship to the residents;

(d) whether Government have carried out a comprehensive ground water survey on the lines of USDA Studies; and

(e) what concrete measures are being taken to meet the serious situation that is developing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Gradual fall in ground water level has been observed in localised pockets in the country.

(b) No, Sir. On the basis of the observations recorded by Central Ground Water Board through its network of observation stations in Tamil Nadu, the maximum fall in water table upto 18.3 m only has been observed at Vadavali in Coimbatore district.

(c) No rapid decline in ground water level is observed in Delhi. However, observations have shown that ground water levels have declined by 6—8 metres in Mehrauli block, 1—5 metres in Alipur, Najafgarh, Nangloi and city block and 1—2 metres in Shahadra block Extress pumage of ground water laregly for domestic water supply could case hardship.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) A model Bill has been circulated by Union Government for enactment of suitable legislation by State Governments Union Territories for regulation and controlled deelopment of ground water. Also a scheme has been formulated by Central Ground Waster Board to assist States in ground water recharge.

Strengthening of the banks of major rivers

656. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the banks of major rivers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds released by Government during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Flood Control being a State subject, funding and management of flood control schemes including strengthening of banks of rivers are done by the States themselves from their own resources according to their own priorities. The Central Government renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

(b) The approved plan outlays under flood conrol sector in State Plan during last three years is enclosed as Statement.